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(54) **Pharmaceutical composition for interferon application.**

(57) There is disclosed pseudomonophase, microemulsion compositions for topical application of interferon to the human or animal skin and mucosa. The compositions comprise a therapeutically effective amount of interferon, 30-70% by volume of a surface active agent having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) of from 12-15 and dual solubility in water/oil; 5-45% of a vegetable oil; and 5-45% water. The compositions are highly skin substantive.

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Pharmaceutical composition for interferon application

5 There are various reports in the literature describing
experimental treatment of a number of diseases by topical
application of interferon. Topical application of human
leukocyte interferon in stasis ulcers and deep burns was
reported by Ikic, et al., International Journal of Clinical
10 Pharmacology, Therapy and Toxicology, Vol. 19, No. 10,
450-452 (1981). The clinical use of human leukocyte inter-
feron in viral infections is described by Ikic, et al.
International Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, Therapy and
Toxicology, Vol. 19, No. 11, 498-505 (1981), Zagreb,
15 Yugoslavia. Treatment of labial and genital herpes with
human leukocyte interferon was reported by Ikic, et al.,
Proc. Symposium on Clinical Use of Interferon, pages
195-202. In the reported studies, interferon was incorpora-
ted in conventional topical formulations, for example,
20 solutions, ointments, creams, oil suspensions, powders, and
the like. Therapeutical effect of human leukocyte interfe-
ron incorporated into ointment and cream on condylomata
acuminata was reported by Ikic, et al; Proc. Symposium on
Clinical Use of Interferon, pages 235-238 (Copyright 1975
25 by the Yugoslav Academy of Sciences and Arts).

European Patent Application No. 77,063 discloses inter-
feron-containing compositions useful for treating herpes
simplex viral infections in human. The compositions com-
30 prise human interferon and about 0.1% to about 20% by
weight of an antiviral surface active agent and a physiolo-
gically acceptable carrier. The compositions are topically
administered to the affected area.

It would be desirable to provide pharmac utical compositions which would effectively afford topical administration of interferon to the skin of mucosa of a patient in need of such treatment.

5

The invention relates to compositions for topical application of interferon to the skin and mucosa of warm-blooded animals. The present invention provides compositions in which proper balance of the partition coefficient of the interferon between the vehicle and the skin, the solubility of the interferon in the vehicle and the diffusion coefficient of the interferon through the vehicle, are achieved by using optimal hydrophilic-lipophilic compositions in which the drug has a high activity and a relatively lower affinity for the carrier. The compositions constitute a pseudomonophase system in which by controlling the oil and the aqueous phases, the physical and penetrating properties may be varied. This invention provides compositions which comprise surface active agents having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance and water solubility adequate to hold together the oil and the aqueous phase in a clear, micellar pseudomonophase system within the viscosity range as a function of the phase ratios.

25 Although the systems of the present invention comprise different proportions of oil, water and surfactant, they are not classic emulsions in which the oil phase is separated from the aqueous phase at the interface by surfactant monolayers.

30

The compositions of the invention comprise a therapeutically effective amount of interferon for topical administration; 30-70% by volume of a surface active agent possessing a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance of from 12-15 and dual solubility in water and oil, 5-45% by volume of a vegetable oil and 5-45% by volume water. The composition may also contain compatible additives used in topical

formulations.

The term interferon as used herein encompasses natural and recombinant interferons, for example leukocyte, fibro-
5 blast and immune interferon, as well as analogues and derivatives thereof. A preferred interferon is recombinant leukocyte interferon A.

The surface active agents utilized in the present
10 invention are characterized as possessing a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) value of from 12-15. The surface active agent has dual solubility in water/oil, i.e. it is soluble in water and soluble, miscible or dispersible in oil. Surface active agents which are useful in preparing
15 the compositions of this invention are polyethylene glycol derivatives of castor oil composed on average of 25-36 moles of ethylene oxide per mol of castor oil. The preferred surface active agent is polyethylene glycol derivatives of castor oil composed on average of 30 moles of ethylene
20 oxide per mol of castor oil, which is available in the trade under the designation PEG-30 castor oil and Emulphor^R EL-620, a trademark of GAF.

The oil component of the compositions of the present
25 invention are vegetable oils. Suitable oils include castor oil, coconut oil and oils consisting of fractionated triglycerides derived from coconut oil, available in the trade under the designation Neobee Oil M5, available from Kay Fries.

30

There may also be incorporated into the composition of the present invention additional ingredients or pharmaceutical adjuvants recognized in the art of pharmaceutical
35 compounding of topical formulations. Pharmaceutical adjuvants that may be used include stabilizers, such as human serum albumin; preservatives, such as phenol, methyl paraben, propyl paraben; antioxidants, such as butylated

hydroxy anisole, butylated hydroxy toluene; and the like. The choice of such materials and the amounts to be utilized are considered to be within the purview of one skilled in the art. It is to be borne in mind, however, that such conventional pharmaceutical adjuncts which might adversely affect the pseudomonophase balance of the topical compositions of the present invention are not suitable for use herein.

10 The phase composition of the pseudomonophase compositions of the present invention may vary from 9:9 to 9:5 surfactant to aqueous-oil phases. The phase composition of the aqueous phase to the oil phase may vary from 1:8 to 8:1. A preferred ratio of ingredients is 9:2:4, surfactant
15 to water to oil.

 The topical compositions of this invention are prepared by conventional techniques well established in the art. The surfactant and oil ingredients are intimately mixed until
20 homogeneous and no gel agglomeration occurs. The interferon component is dissolved in water and the aqueous solution is added in one portion with stirring to the oil-surfactant component. Formation of the component phases is carried out at room temperature.

25 The appearance of the compositions of the present invention are viscous liquids having varying degrees of viscosity. The compositions exhibit good substantivity and adherence to the skin and mucosa. The compositions are
30 easily washed from the skin tissues and fabrics.

 The manner in which the topical compositions are employed will be readily apparent from the foregoing description, as well as from the examples which follow. The
35 novel compositions will be applied in a thin layer to the subject to be treated from single dose or multiple dose containers. Application of the composition may be accom-

plished by use of a cotton swab, soft brush, sponge or applied directly from a container such as an expecially designed container, for example a Hill Top ChamberTM available from Hill Top Research Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio.
5 Obviously, the product can be used in either greater or lesser quantities, if so desired.

Skin penetration studies can be carried out with the formulations of the present invention utilizing the horizontal diffusion cell method described by Durrheim et al.,
10 J. Pharm. Sci., 69, 781 (1980).

Excised human abdominal skin, obtained from cadavers, was kept frozen (-15°C) until used for the experiments.
15 Three hours before the experiment, the skin was defrosted, the subcutaneous fat was removed to the greatest extent possible and cleaned under running distilled water. Before and at the end of each experiment, the skin was checked visually for integrity of the stratum corneum. Adequate
20 marked areas of skin were sectioned off and clamped between the half diffusion cells with the stratum corneum facing the donor compartment and the dermis facing the receiver. The effective skin diffusion area was 0.57 cm². The donor compartment was filled with 3 ml of interferon solution and
25 the receiver compartment contained 3 ml of placebo. The solutions on both sides of the cells were stirred with small magnets at 150 rpm. The cells were immersed in a constant temperature bath maintained at 37°C. Samples were withdrawn at 1, 4, 22 and 45 hours.

30

All 3 ml of the receiver compartment were exchanged at each time with fresh release medium. This exchange ensures skin conditions in the system.

35

For a fuller understanding of the nature of this invention, reference may be had to the following examples which are given merely as further illustrations of the invention and are not to be construed in a limiting sense.

5

Example 1

Three compositions containing 70×10^6 units/ml recombinant leukocyte interferon-A (rIFL- α A) and 60% by weight of polyethylene glycol derivative of castor oil having an average of 30 moles of ethylene oxide (Emulphor EL-629) and different proportions of oil, fractionated triglycerides derived from coconut oil (Neobee Oil M5) were prepared. The compositions were prepared by intimately mixing the surfactant and oil components until homogeneous at room temperature. The interferon was dissolved in the water at room temperature. The aqueous interferon solution was added in one portion with stirring to the surfactant--oil component. Table I reports the physical state and viscosity of the formulation according to this example

Table I

Formulations Containing 70×10^6 units/ml
rIFL- α A in a Microemulsion System
Hydrophilic-Lipophilic Ratio (Volume)

Formulation	Aqueous Phase(%)		Oily Phase(%)		Surfactant(%)		Physical State	Viscosity
I	1	6.6	5	33.3	9	60.0	clear liquid	+
II	2	13.3	4	26.6	9	60.0	clear liquid	++
III	3	20.0	3	20.0	9	60.0	clear viscous liquid	+++

Scal :

- + low viscosity
- ++ moderate viscosity
- +++ high viscosity

5

Example 2

A composition of the present invention was prepared from the following ingredients:

10

Formulation A:

¹²⁵ I-rIFL-αA (2.2x10 ⁶ cpm)	200 μl ~ 10,000 units
rIFL-αA solution	100 μl ~ 10 ⁹ u/ml
Emulphor EL-620	500 μl
15 Neobee oil M5	500 μl

20 Skin penetration studies were carried out using the Franz diffusion cell method described by Franz, J. Invest. Dermatol., 64, 190 (1975). This is basically similar to the horizontal cell method with the following differences: the cells are vertical, the receiver volume is 8-10 ml, only the receiver medium is stirred at 600 rpm. by means of a small magnet and the effective surface area is 1.75 cm².

25 Interferon was found in the epidermis and dermis of cadaver abdominal skin at the end of a 50 hour penetration experiment in Franz cells. The results presented below show that the highest concentration was found in the epidermis.

30 Distribution of radiolabelled Interferon (cpm) between skin layers and the receiver compartments of the Franz cell:

35

Area = 1.75 cm²

The solution was adjusted to pH 7 with buffer solution.

Compositions containing varying proportions of surfactant (Emulphor EL-260) oil and water were prepared to determine the appearance and consistency of the compositions. 25 The results are set forth in Table 2.

35

Table 2: Phase Composition and Appearance
of Applications

Aqueous Oily						
5	<u>S:W-O</u>	<u>Emulphor</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>Appearance</u>	<u>Consistency</u>
	9:9	9	1	8	clear	liquid
		9	2	7	clear	liquid
		9	3	6	clear	gel
		9	8	1	hazy	gel
10	9:8	9	2	6	clear	liquid
	9:6	9	1	5	clear	liquid
		9	2	4	clear	liquid
		9	3	3	clear	viscous liquid
		9	4	2	hazy	gel
15	9:5	9	3	2	clear	gel
		9	1	4	clear	liquid
	6:10	6	2	8	clear	viscous liquid
		6	3	7	hazy	gel
	6:6	6	1	5	clear	liquid
20		6	2	4	clear	gel
		6	3	3	hazy	gel
	4:10	4	1	9	clear	liquid
		4	2	8	hazy	gel - separate
	4:6	4	1	5	clear	gel
25		4	2	4	hazy	liquid
	4:4	4	1	3	clear	liquid

S - Surfactant

W-O - Aqueous - oily phases

30

Example 4

Compositions containing varying proportions of vegetable oil (Neobee M5 oil), Emulphor EL 620 and water were prepared as described in Example 1 with the exception that the interferon ingredient was omitted. The following table sets forth the appearance of the resulting composition:

35

TABLE
Appearance of Preparations (plac bo)
Containing Different Proportions
of Vegetable Oil (Neobee M5 Oil). Emulphor EL 620 and Water

No.	Emulphor	Neeobee	H ₂ O	Other	Appearance of the
	EL 620	Oil M5			
	% v/v	% v/v	% v/v	% v/v	final preparation
1	20	10	70		Hazy
10 2	20	70	10		Two phases
3	20	5	75		Low viscosity, slightly hazy
4	20	75	5		Two phases
5	20	40	40		Emulsions white
15 6	20	40	20	20	Nonstable emulsion
				Propylene glycol	
7	60	27	13		Clear, viscous, yellowish
20 8	18	10	72		White, hazy
9	18	75	7		Two phases
10	30	60	10		Two phases
11	30	10	60		Clear, yellowish
12	30	5	65		Clear, yellowish
25 13	30	65	5		Two phases
14	30	50	20		Two phases

Example 5

30 A composition was prepared containing 60% by volume of Emulphor EL-620, 27% by volume of parafin oil and 13% by volume of water. The resulting composition did not form a pseudomono phase system but rather separates into two phases.

Claims

1. A pharmaceutical composition for administration of
interferon into or through the skin of a warm-blooded
5 animal comprising a therapeutically effective amount of
interferon, 30% to 70% by volume of a surface active agent
having a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) value of from
12-15 and dual solubility in water/oil, 5-45% by volume of
a vegetable oil and 5-45% by volume water.
10
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the interferon is
a natural or recombinant leukocyte or fibroblast interferon.
3. The composition of claim 2 wherein the interferon is
15 recombinant leukocyte interferon A.
4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the surface
active agent is a polyethylene glycol derivative of castor
oil composed on average of 30 moles of ethylene oxide per
20 mol of castor oil.
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the vegetable oil
is an oil consisting of fractional triglyceride derived
from coconut oil.
25
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition
also contains pharmaceutical adjuvants.
7. The composition of claim 6 wherein the pharmaceu-
30 tical adjuvant is a preservative selected from the group
consisting of phenol, methyl paraben and propyl paraben.
8. The composition of claim 7 wherein the preservative
is phenol.
35

9. The composition of claim 6 wherein the pharmaceutical adjuvant is human serum albumin.

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